

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 16-33 are currently pending, with Claims 24-29 withdrawn from consideration. Claims 16, 17, 23, and 30 are amended and new Claim 33 is added by the present amendment. No new matter is added.¹

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 16-18, 20, 22, 23, and 30-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,636,370 to Freeman; and Claims 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Freeman.

Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claims 16, 23, and 30 recite features not taught or rendered obvious by Freeman.

Amended Claim 16 recites a glass-ceramic plate configured to cover heating elements. The claimed glass-ceramic plate includes, *inter alia*, **a body including a glass-ceramic material**, the body having an upper surface and a lower surface.

The outstanding Office Action failed to give patentable weight to the recitation of a glass-ceramic plate in the preamble of the previously-presented Claim 16, and therefore applied as prior art the patent to Freeman, which describes a polyvinyl butyral (PVB) interlayer material disposed between two pieces of glass forming the windshield of a vehicle. The outstanding Office Action asserts that the PVB interlayer material anticipates all the features recited in Claim 16. However, Claim 16 is amended to recite that the glass-ceramic plate includes a body including a glass-ceramic material. On the contrary, the PVB interlayer material is a clear plastic adhesive which does not include any glass-ceramic material. Indeed, Applicants' specification describes that glass-ceramic plates transmit wavelengths in

¹ Amended Claim 16 is supported at least by the specification on page 1, lines 16-22; amended Claim 23 is supported by at least the specification on page 1, lines 16-22; amended Claim 30 is supported at least by Claims 16 and 17; and new Claim 33 is supported by Claims 23 and 30, and the specification on page 7, line 36, to page 8, line 13.

the infrared domain easily and **block wavelengths in the visible domain**. These properties would be unacceptable in the PVB interlayer material described by Freeman, because a vehicle windshield must transmit wavelengths in the visible domain, otherwise the vehicle driver would not be able to see through the windshield. Therefore, Freeman fails to teach or suggest *a body including a glass-ceramic material*, as recited in amended Claim 16. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 16 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably defines over Freeman.

Claim 23 is amended to also recite a body including a glass-ceramic material. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 23 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably defines over Freeman.

Claim 30 is amended into independent form, to recite a temperature-maintaining device including, *inter alia*, **one or more heating elements**. Applicants respectfully submit that Freeman fails to teach or suggest any heating elements in the windshield of a vehicle. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claim 30 patentably defines over Freeman.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding rejections of Claims 16-23 and 30-32 as anticipated by or obvious over Freeman be withdrawn.

New Claim 33 also patentably defines over Freeman. Claim 33 recites a cooking and/or temperature-maintaining device including one or more heating elements and a glass-ceramic plate configured to cover the one or more heating elements. The glass-ceramic plate includes a first surface and a second surface substantially parallel to the first surface. The glass-ceramic plate also includes at least one raised portion formed above the first surface with a first thickness of the raised portion greater than a thickness of the glass-ceramic plate outside the raised portion and at least one tapered portion following the at least one raised

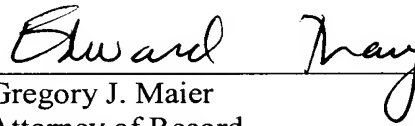
portion tapering from the first thickness of the at least one raised portion to a reduced thickness toward an edge of the glass-ceramic plate.

As noted above, Freeman fails to teach or suggest *a glass-ceramic plate configured to cover the one or more heating elements*. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 33 patentably defines over Freeman.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Edward Tracy", is written over a horizontal line.

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